

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Cropland

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Cropland	<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Water Conservation - 30 pts (answer either a] or b] )	
1. a. Are the practices part of an Irrigation Water Management Plan that results in a minimum reduction of water use of 35% ?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Are the practices part of an Irrigation Water Management Plan that results in a reduction of water use of .less than 35%, but more than a minimum of 20% as determined by CT NRCS?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Will irrigation water be captured and reused, e.g. flood table or ebb/flow bench recirculation system through 443, Irrigation Surface/Subsurface	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality - 85pts	
2. a. Will the producer implement a Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS specifications for applying fertilizer according to June Nitrate testing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Will the planned practice(s) reduce the risk of nutrient or sediment transport to surface water through the implementation of buffers or filter strips between fields and any surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the contract application include 595, IPM or other practices to assist with the mitigation of the impacts of pesticide application? (For example, 386 Field Border, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Condition - 100 pts	
3. a. Will the contracted practices include either 329 (No-Till) or 345(Reduced Till) and result in the minimal possible disturbance to the soil for the applicable crop type?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Will the contracted practices in annual crop fields result in MORE than 2 major crop types in the planned rotation (this includes the cash crop)? (Types=WSG, CSG, WSB, CSB). On perennial systems (hay, pasture, orchard) 3 or more families must be present in the cover.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Will the contracted practices provide adequate residue cover? 329 and/or 345 will be contracted to ensure that the minimum residue at the time of planting is 75%.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Does the contract include practices 340 or 328 which will result in a condition where a living root is in the soil for the longest possible time? The conservation plan will set specific time frames: Maximum of 30 days between termination of cover crop and planting of cash crop. Maximum 2 weeks after harvest for planting of cover crop. Goal is 65% coverage with live root before ground freeze and 85% coverage when cover crop is terminated.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion - 55 pts (answer either a] or b] )	
4. a. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are contracted practices expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are contracted practices expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to below "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

4. c. Is gully erosion an identified resource concern and are ALL instances are being treated through contracted practices: 412 Grassed Waterway, 468 Lined Waterway, 362 Diversion, or 600 Terrace?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife - 30 pts	
5. a. Does the contract include practices like 327 Conservation Cover, 393 Field Borders, 391 Riparian Forest Buffers, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Development, 612 Tree/Shrub Planting, 395 IPM or 647 Early Successional Habitat Management that are designed to benefit pollinators or other wildlife? (refer to New England Pollinator Handbook for design recommendations)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	
1. a. Is this an application for practices to address water quality at a confined livestock feeding operation that is located in a twelve (12) digit Hydrologic Unit code (HUC) watershed of a 303(d) listed stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed or designated Aquifer Protection Area AND does it contain practices that address water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degree of Cooperation by Producer	
2. a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Magnitude of Expected Benefits	
3. a. Does the contract application have energy as a secondary resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Does the contract application involve conservation of surface and/or groundwater (i.e. irrigation water management)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Will the practices in this contract directly benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP NDDB (Natural Diversity Database)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Has the producer completed, or is currently enrolled in, an organic certification program recognized by USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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#### Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<b>NRCS Representative:</b>	<b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b>
<b>Signature Date:</b>	<b>Signature Date:</b>